



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: November 2, 2004

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL CONTRACT FOR
YOUTH WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve and authorize the Acting Parks and Recreation Director to execute a one year professional services contract with the Community Environmental Council in the amount of \$41,385 for the provision of youth watershed education programs.

DISCUSSION:

The Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Division (Creeks Division) is recommending that the City contract with the Community Environmental Council (CEC) to provide youth watershed education programs. The education of youth is a key component of community efforts to reduce urban runoff pollution and improve ocean water quality at the beach. By providing clear and engaging activities for youth on the importance of water quality and the causes of pollution, students are able to develop an appreciation of the creeks while adopting the appropriate behaviors to protect them.

CEC will implement the following youth education programs to elementary age children attending schools, summer camps, and after-school programs within the City of Santa Barbara: 1) Creek Kids series, 2) field trips to the Watershed Resource Center, and 3) Green Kids water quality class session.

Creek Kids is a three-part series of in-school presentations and trips to both the Watershed Resource Center and Old Mission Creek restoration at Bohnett Park. Targeted to 6th grade students, classrooms participate in hands-on activities to learn about creeks and watersheds, sources of water pollution, the components of a healthy creek and what students can do to improve water quality. Field trips to the Watershed Resource Center at Arroyo Burro Beach provide Kindergarten through 6th grade, and after-school students demonstrations of how watersheds work, ways in which water

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

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becomes polluted and steps to protect water quality. Finally, CEC will provide a class on water quality for the five-part Green Kids series, a 3rd through 6th grade program which emphasizes the interconnectedness of natural resources and the environment. The CEC programs are correlated to state standards and designed to compliment existing Creeks Division youth education programs including the Mountains to the Sea Watershed Curriculum for grades 4-8, and in-class and after school watershed and pollution prevention presentations for Kindergarten through 6th grade.

The proposed contract with CEC continues an existing relationship with the Creeks Division. Under the FY 2004 contract, CEC conducted 15 classroom series and led 45 field trips to the Watershed Resource Center. Approximately 2,000 City youth participated in these water quality education programs.

Over the summer the Creeks Division and CEC worked together to revise and improve youth education programs. A primary goal was to broaden accessibility to a range of schools and to increase participation. Through additional classroom programs and fieldtrips to the Watershed Resource Center, it is anticipated that 2,500 youth will participate in watershed education programs in FY 2005.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost of the contract with CEC is \$41,385. The contract primarily provides funding for CEC staff to provide educational programs, with additional funds for bus transportation and building maintenance costs for the Watershed Resource Center. Funds for this contract are available in the Creeks Division FY 2005 Operating Fund.

PREPARED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager/dh

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Acting Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office